

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. George C. Blanchard, District I Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II  
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV  
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

**MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 3:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members and the County Attorney present.

**Press:**

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV, WLOS TV, WSPA TV & WSNW Radio.

Members of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Dave Williams – Anderson Independent.

**Other Organizations Notified:**

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association & Citizens for Recreation Center.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Lyles called the meeting to order.

**Pledge to US Flag:**

Mr. Blanchard led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Suarez, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the March 6, 2007 meeting be adopted as presented.

**Public Comment Session:**

Mr. Berry Nichols addressed Council regarding the allotted time to speak during the public comment session, zoning, the construction of a “spec” building for the County and the Oconee County School Board.

**Public Comment Session Continued:**

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding economic development and bringing businesses into the County.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the allotted time to speak during the public comment session.

**Law Enforcement Center:**

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Blanchard, approved 5 – 0 that the County enter into the attached service agreement with Trane, a Division of American Standard, Inc. at an annual cost of \$3,319 covering the time period of April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 for maintenance of HVAC equipment at the Law Enforcement Center.

**Parks, Recreation & Tourism:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Parks, Recreation & Tourism be authorized to purchase three Tourism Marketing Banners at a cost not to exceed \$3,300 with the requirement that a three year, five year and ten year tourism plan be developed for the County.

**Computer Tax Center:**

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that Oconee County enter into the attached agreement with Smith Data Processing for forms and/or supplies for the Tax Center July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

**Airport:**

The proposed T-Hangar Lease Agreement and the proposed Airport Minimum Standards for development and business activities at the airport were referred to the Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee.

**Communications:**

The request of Communications for a change order to the New World Systems purchase order for the purchase a redundancy solution was referred to the Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee. The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee scheduled a meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 2:00 pm in Council Chambers.

**Council Committee Reports:**

Mr. Blanchard reported that he attended the Infrastructure Meeting for Mr. Lyles and it was in informational meeting.

Mr. Suarez informed Council he had attended the Planning Meeting and he felt we were going about zoning in the correct way – one step at the time.

**Administrator’s Report:**

Mr. Blanchard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 5 – 0 that the industrial park in the southern part of the County be named “Golden Corner Commerce Park”.

Mr. Hendricks also informed Council he would need an executive session to discuss insurance, rental of a building, the Cities and a personnel matter.

**“Spec” Building:**

In response to Mr. Nichols remarks during the public comment session, Mr. Ables informed those present that Council had never discussed the construction of another “spec” building.

**Budget, Finance & Procurement Meeting:**

Mr. Ables announced a Budget, Finance & Procurement Meeting Wednesday, April 9, 2007 at 10:00 am in Council Chambers for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2007-08 fiscal year budget.

Mr. Ables also informed those present that the School District was proposing an eighteen mill increase to cover bonds and the County has no control over their bonded indebtedness, further, if the School District does sell bonds the County legally has to collect the funds to cover the bond payments.

**Billboards in Oconee County:**

Mr. Blanchard informed those present that twenty permits have been issued for billboards in Oconee County; unfortunately the County has no control over these permits at this time.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Council go into executive session for the purpose of discussing four contractual matters – insurance, rental of building, Cities and new administrator.

**Open Session:**

When open session resumed, Mr. Lyles announced the listing of candidates for the administrator’s position had been narrowed to six applicants.

**Adjourn:**

Adjourn: 5:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

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Opal O. Green  
Clerk to Council